

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

- 1.(Currently Amended)      A method of producing bearing shells in which blanks are made from a strip material, then these blanks are shaped into a bearing shell and finally these bearing shells are provided with an overlay, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein
- at least one stamped marking is introduced into the inner surface of the blank or the bearing shell within a strip-shaped area below the parting face prior to application of the overlay, wherein the depth and width of the stamped marking are sufficiently ~~have to be~~ large enough for the contour of the stamped marking to be retained after application of the overlay.
2. (Currently Amended)      A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced prior to machining of the inner surface.
3. (Currently Amended)      A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein a ~~machining step is used in forming the bearing shell and where~~ characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced in combination with ~~[[a]]~~ the machining step ~~which has to be performed anyway~~.
4. (Currently Amended)      A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced during a punching out operation of the blank.
5. (Currently Amended)      A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced during shaping.
6. (Currently Amended)      A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced into a ~~subsequently to be produced~~ relief area of the bearing shell.

**Appln. No.: Not yet assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final the depth T' of [[is]]  $\geq 0.1$  mm.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final the depth T' that is  $>$  than twice ~~the~~ a thickness D of the overlay.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a round or n-gonal contour, where n is  $\geq 3$ .

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is  $>$  twice the thickness of the overlay.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is  $\geq 0.1$  mm.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced in the middle of the strip-shaped area.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the at least one stamped marking is introduced at the edge of the strip-shaped area.

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14. (Currently Amended) . . A bearing shell having at least one stamped marking ~~[[ (7) ]]~~  
in its ~~an~~ inner surface within a strip-shaped area of the bearing shell ~~(3, 8)~~ below ~~a~~ the  
parting face of the bearing ~~[[ (2) ]]~~.